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First Committee
Agenda item 65 (k)
General and complete disarmament: improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee

United States of America: draft resolution

Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/41 of 8 December 2003, 58/126 of 19 December 2003 and 58/316 of 1 July 2004,

Mindful of its decision, in resolution 58/316, that each Main Committee shall give specific attention to the rationalization of their future agendas by the biennialization, triennialization, clustering and the elimination of items; and make recommendations to the plenary Assembly for its decision by 1 April 2005,[1]

1. *Decides* to adopt the following measures to improve the operation of the First Committee, namely to:

(a) Limit the number of studies commissioned by the First Committee to one per year;

(b) Set a numerical limit on the number of draft resolutions and decisions tabled each year;

(c) Introduce resolutions traditionally adopted by consensus only on a biennial or triennial basis;

(d) Institute automatic "sunset" provisions for all United Nations activities generated by the First Committee;

(e) Begin the implementation of the provisions of paragraph 20 of its resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002 by consolidating reports initiated by the First Committee with other reports on related issues that the Secretariat is required to produce during a given session of the General Assembly;

[1] See resolution 58/316, annex, sect. C, para. 3 (a).

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(f) Elect the full Bureau of the First Committee one year in advance, at the conclusion of each annual session of the Committee;

(g) Instruct the Secretariat to review the statement of programme budget implications process with a view to improving the accuracy of its projections and increasing the advance notice provided to Member States regarding the financial implications of draft resolutions and decisions;

2. *Decides also* that the Member States will determine the operational modalities for implementing the measures contained in paragraph 1 of the present resolution during the fifty-ninth/sixtieth intersessional period, in consultation with, as appropriate, the General Committee of the General Assembly, the Bureau of the First Committee and the Secretariat;

3. *Recommends* to the plenary Assembly, for its decision by 1 April 2005, the proposal contained in the annex to the present resolution for clustering agenda items customarily referred to the First Committee;

4. *Decides* to implement all of the foregoing measures by the commencement of its sixtieth session.

Annex
First Committee: recommendations for clustering agenda items

(*Based on the current agenda (A/59/251), unless otherwise noted*)

I. Retained current agenda item: "General and complete disarmament" (65)

1. The following existing agenda items would be folded into the item above: 24, "Prevention of armed conflict" (currently handled in the plenary), 60, 61, 64, 65, 65 (b), "Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof" (currently handled in the plenary), 65 (e), 65 (h), 65 (l), 65 (n), 65 (o) and 65 (cc).

2. From the agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the following item would be folded into the item above: 67, "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

II. Proposed new agenda item: "Nuclear issues"

3. The following existing agenda items would be folded into the new item proposed above: 63, 65 (a), 65 (p), 65 (q), 65 (t), 65 (x), 65 (aa), 66 (g) and 71.

4. From the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under item 73, "General and complete disarmament", the question "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons" and items 73 (b), "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes", 73 (c), "Reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons", and 73 (j), "Bilateral strategic nuclear arms reductions and the new strategic framework", would be folded into the new item proposed above.

III. Proposed new agenda item: "Other weapons of mass destruction"

5. The following existing agenda items would be folded into the new item proposed above: 65 (d), 65 (r), 65 (u), 72.

IV. Proposed new agenda item: "Conventional arms control"

6. The following existing agenda items would be folded into the new item proposed above: 65 (g), 65 (j), 65 (v), 65 (y), 65 (z) and 69.

V. Proposed new agenda item: "Confidence-building measures"

7. The following existing agenda items would be folded into the new item proposed above: 57, 59, 65 (m), 65 (w), 66 (h).

8. From the agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the following item would be folded into the new item proposed above: 62 (b), "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures".

VI. Proposed new agenda item: "Regional security measures"

9. The following existing agenda items would be folded into the new item proposed above: 58, 62, 65 (f), 65 (i), 65 (s), 65 (bb), 68, 70.

10. From the agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the following items would be folded into the new item proposed above: 64, "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace", 65, "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty", and 66, "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)".

11. From the agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the following item would be folded into the new item proposed above: 59, "Question of Antarctica".

VII. Proposed new agenda item: "Disarmament machinery"

12. The following existing agenda items would be folded into the new item proposed above: 56 (m), 56 (r), 65 (c), 65 (k), 65 (dd), 66, 66 (a)-(f), 67 and 67 (a)-(d).